GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1465
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
RALISATION OF VISA AND WORK PERMIT REGIME
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India`s call for liberalisation of visa and work permit regime for professionals has found support in Germany as reported in the Times of India dated January 23, 2001; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Germany has recently initiated measures to liberalise its visa and work permit regime to attract highly skilled foreign professionals. Since 1 August 2000, Germany has been issuing special work permits to skilled Information Technology professionals from non-EU countries, including India, under the so-called `Green Card` Scheme.

(b) The scheme includes issuing work permits for a maximum validity of five years with local labour offices being authorised to issue work permits in each individual case. These work permits would be issued within a week of application. These facilities can be extended to members of Green Card holders (spouses and children under 18) but a work permit for spouses would only be available after two years of stay. Professionals can also freely change jobs during their stay in Germany.